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After Muriel Rukeyser's "Islands"

by Katherine McCord

But water surrounds.
It's not as if you can
climb down.
Boat to boat, you're asking,
swim? sail?
After all, swimming is all
luck. We have no gills,
and islands are all light.
Escape that.
Blue is
someone else's in.
Even the moon, round and perfect,
and born of dark,
lies
on water
because it has nowhere
else to go.

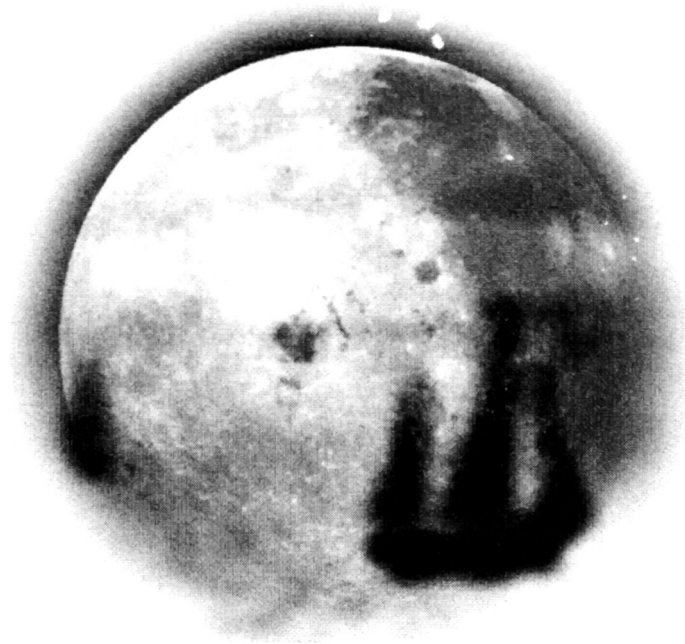


Photo (detail) by Joel Kendall

